

Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

VOL. 1.

SEDALIA, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1903.

NO. 20

BEGINNINGS OF AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture Defined.

I am a farmer by occupation. Having lived on the farm for the past fourteen years. Have worked and tilled it's soil; I have carefully studied the different kinds of soils as adapted for certain kinds of grains. Thus, this enables me to say something of the beginning of Agriculture.

First, let us define the word AGRICULTURE: Derived from the Latin words Ager, a field, and cultor, a cultivator. In a general way the cultivation of the ground for the raising of vegetables, fruits, and planting seeds. It includes, also, gardening, or Horticulture; the raising of all kinds of flocks.

Methods

Now the appropriation of the riches of the vegetable world is accomplished in two ways. According to our principal efforts to make use of the spontaneous products of wild plants or to multiply them by cultivation. The former, which constitutes the system of selection, reduces itself to mere taking possession, and, as it is expected, by the most simple means, it can be practiced by all animals. The second which is applied to the production of resources that are needed, alone achieves a conquest and durable empire. But it requires superior capacity, a degree of intelligence and reflection to which no other animal than man has risen. Cultivation might, therefore, serve, as does the use of fire, to mark the precise boundary where reason is separated from instinct and passes beyond it.

During an initial of a long period of duration, man destituted of thought and without power to act upon nature, had to satisfy himself with utilizing the spontaneous products of plants, while he was incapable of adding to them by his industry. Like all plant-eating animals he subsisted on resources of a hazardous collection. This sort of life demanded nothing more than an attentive search and instinct to profit by happy finds. Existence was passed in wandering in quest of nutritious plants and gathering their fruits. The numerous families of monkeys, and even some human tribes, still live in this way.

So simple a method of expropriation is necessarily very restricted. Man did not know in the beginning the value of all productions which abound around him. First of all, he had to learn to distinguish the useful plants from among those that were not useful. It is not an easy task to pick out in the three or four thousand species of which the existing flora is composed, those most suitable for satisfying various needs—especially when we recollect that most of the uses we make of them instead of being naturally indicated, are suggested by previous discoveries and there is no motive to impel one to seek in things a utility which is not suspected.

Investigation and Progress.

Primitive man was doubtless put in the way of making such discoveries by possessing necessities

and the suggestion of a chance. The terrible famines to which savages are exposed, which forces them to eat the most insignificant berries, viz., grasses roots and even the leaves of trees, causes them to learn by repeated trials the productions which could best afford them nourishment. Attention was fixed upon the most advantageous and most repulsive of them. Such experimentation, marked by disgusting and perilous features—for many poisonous plants proffer baits to greedy appetites by which they are sometimes caught—was accomplished at the instigation of hunger, with the assistance of instinct then more formal or better minded than now, comparable to those which guide animals so surely in the choice of their food. At a later date nascent reason discovered various useful qualities in plants. Fortunately observation and trial followed with success, showed what profit could be derived from products long neglected. The uses of wood assigned an increasing importance to it, first as a combustible, beginning with the discovery of fire, then as a substance which could be made serviceable in infinite ways. In time men learn to separate, twist spin, and weave bark and fibers, it color them in various shades, extract oil, wine, and sugar. Casual cures revealed the medical properties of simples. Every age an increase in the number of useful products which one could draw from plants. Even now after the many investigations that have been pursued thru thousands of ages, we are far from having made available all the resources which the vegetable world might furnish us, and its fertility holds in reserve for us many treasures of which we are now ignorant.

Naturalism.

All of the plants that have come into cultivation among us, were first used wild, for their value had to be recognized before the multiplying of them could take shape. As long as they were naturally abundant enough to suffice for the necessities of sparse population, no aim would be taken to propagate them. This phase of absolute uncultivation the longest that the human species have traversed, appears to have continued from the origin of the race to the present geological period, nothing in fact, in the vestiges that have come down to us, reveals any signs of uncultivated plants or of the modes of cultivation; such are not found till the station at Robenhause, the most recent of the prehistoric ages, is reached. A similar condition has persisted among many people not savages reduced to the sorry resources of animal searching, like the Hottentot, the Bushman, Fengian and others but hunters, like a number of American tribes, Indians, Eskimos and even posterial people, like the populations of Asia and Africa, who live solely on the products of their flocks.

The earth produces nothing more detestable than an ungrateful man.—Ex.

DANVILLE'S TREATMENT OF RIOTERS.

Among the several places afflicted with mob violence this year was Danville, Ill., which has treated her rioters in such sharp contrast to the leniency shown the same class of lawbreakers elsewhere that her decisive action has elicited much favorable comment. Rioters were brought to speedy trial and strict justice appears to have been meted out regardless of their standing in the community. The Danville courts have treated the members of the mob who attacked the jail exactly as they ought to be treated, and have not heeded the extenuating pleas that have availed elsewhere toward off punishment.

On Tuesday the arguments for new trials in the cases of the eleven men and one woman found guilty of attempting to enter the jail with intent to kill certain inmates on July 25 were heard in the circuit court and overruled in each instance. The court then sentenced each defendant, giving the adults indeterminate terms in Chester penitentiary and the minor, a boy, a sentence in the Pontiac reformatory. The court then made a long talk to the defendants, giving them advice concerning their future conduct.

He said in part:

You may thank God you are not here on a charge of murder instead of an attempt murder, and that I am not sentencing you to be hanged instead of to the penitentiary. For as sure as you live, had you gained entrance to the jail that night, you would have committed murder, not once, but probably a dozen times. If the right man had not been sheriff you would have succeeded.

It is evident that if such summary justice were generally meted out to rioters mobs would not feel so free to take the law into their own hands.

—WEEKS CURRENT.

ENGLAND DRAWS COLOR LINE

Courts Uphold Discrimination Against Negroes in Saloons and Public Places.

From the Globe Democrat.

LONDON Sept. 12.—It has been the boast of England in the past that it never drew the color line, whites and blacks being treated alike in hotels, theaters, restaurants, saloons and other public places. Nevertheless, the color line is being drawn, and Negroes are beginning to be discriminated against in public places, as in the United States. The courts have just upheld such discrimination as legal. A saloon keeper in the West End refused to serve two Negroes drinks at the bar. Negroes brought suit. The magistrate decided that publicans are bound to serve travelers with food and drink, there is no law to compel them to serve anybody else, white or black. The magistrate held the publican was in his rights in refusing to sell to Negroes, and dismissed the case.

The suit attracted wide attention and much comment on the fact that the masses in England generally are beginning to lose

their fraternal regard for the Negro, who now is debarred under various pretexts from stopping at the most popular London hotels

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Divine Says Negroes Should Contend for Rights and Cease Submission.

From the Globe-Democrat.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 12.—Bishop Alexander Walters, in his annual address to the Missouri conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church, now in session at the A. M. E. Zion church, Thirty-eight and Dearborn streets, discussed the race problem and urged the necessity of higher educational requirement for candidates for the ministry. He said: "The race problem is the most important issue now before the American people. Some very good men have urged the plan of expatriation, but this suggestion is impracticable, because of our immense numbers, even if there were no other objections. Another proposition segregation. This is about as impracticable as the expatriation. As to the amalgamation project, I will not stop to consider it, because notwithstanding all that is said against it, it is going on all the time. Lynching has been tried, but it has only made it the more difficult. Of late, the mob has received some sturdy blows thru the manly letter of President Roosevelt to Gov. Durbin. The crime of the age is the disfranchisement of the Negro in certain Southern states, and should be fought to the bitter (Continued on page 2.)

QUEER, ISN'T IT?

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Hardy R. Whitlock, the Danville sheriff who, single handed, subdued a murderous mob, is an organization Republican. He has worked with and in the regular Republican organization of Vermillion county. He was nominated by the Republican organization and was opposed by the Republican "reformers."

John Beard, the Danville mayor who went away and sat down while a murderous mob tortured and slew a prisoner in his custody, is not an organization man in politics. Nominally he is a Democrat, but he is careful to have it understood that he is an "independent" or "reform" Democrat. He was elected in an attempt to "smash the machine" in Danville.

According to the "independent theory" of the politics the "independent" mayor ought to have done better when the test of his official fidelity came than the organization sheriff. According to this theory the sheriff ought to have stopped to think whether he not his party organization would loose votes by his quelling the mob, while the mayor ought to have thought of nothing but his duty under the laws.

However, the facts were just the other way. The mayor saw "prominent and respectable citizens" in the mob, and went and sat down. The sheriff saw nothing but rioters and stood up and put them down.

Queer, isn't it, how these cocksure political theories go off at the wrong end in real life?

SCHOOL TIME.

By INEZ C. PARKER.

Run 'long to school, meh honey,
Play time's done gooe by,
See, de Autumn flings its yellow
Haze across't de sky.
Trees begins to sigh an' shiver,
Winds is growing cool,
No mo' time for fooling, Honey,
Run 'long to school.

Run 'long to school, meh Honey,
Heah's yo' books an' slate—
Study hard, an' by m' bye
You'll grow up wise an' great;
Git yo' lesson, be on time,
An' always min' de rule;
Hat's de way to prospere, Honey,
Run 'long to school.

Run 'long to school, meh Honey,
Dat's de way to climb;
Folks what's ignunt nowadays
Has a sorry time;
Fuht to cahve yo' way tho' life, chiel
Learnin' is a tool;
Dat's why you mus' study, Honey
Run 'long to school.

Run 'long to school, meh Honey,
Get yo' books down fine,
Put yo' bes' foot to de front, an'
Try to rise an' shine;
Be a zample fuh yo' mates,
Dont have no time to fool;
Desetimes calls fuh wisdom, Honey,
Run 'long to school.

Run 'long to school, meh Honey,
I aint smaht, I know;
But I'se seed dey's blessin's, chile
Inside de school house do';
An' now while de leaves is ruslin',
In de breezes cool,
'Pears, almos', dey's whisperin',
"Honey,
Run 'long to school."

Run 'long to school, meh Honey,
'N waybe, by' m' by'
You will be a stah o' brightness
In de social sky;
Jes' be good an' study hahd,
An' always min' de rule,—
Take dis cookey, Honey, now' an'
Run 'long to school.

—THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD

A NEGRO THE BEST SHOT

Helps U. S. Army team to Win the Dryden Cup.

Sept. 11.—The infantry rifle team of the United States army came to the fore very decidedly late this afternoon and captured the Dryden trophy by scoring a total of 995 out of a possible 1,200. The competition was closer and more spirited than any other team contest held during the meet. At the conclusion of the firing at the 200 yard stage New Jersey was in the lead. When "cease firing" was sounded at the 500-yard stage, however, the District of Columbia had moved to the front and led the race by 12 points. But at the final stag, the 1,000-yard line, the infantry team of the United States army closed the gap, and finished points ahead of the next nearest competitor, the District of Columbia. The best individual shooting among the members of the winning team was done by Quartermaster Sergeant Hawkins, who is a colored man. The winning team received a cash prize of \$150 and will hold the beautiful trophy for one year. The District of Columbia received second prize \$100.